

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Official Action of April 16, 2003.

The language of the Specification and claims have been modified in view of the Official Action. New Claim 11 corresponds to prior Claim 3 except that in line 6 the "first" step, which was an inadvertent error, has been replaced by --second-- and "next to" has been replaced by --through--. Claims 12-16 correspond to cancelled Claims 4-8 and cancelled Claims 9 and 10 correspond to new Claims 18 and 19. Claim 17 relates to a tile in accordance with Claim 16 wherein the peripheral ribs define between them trapezoid shaped spaces.

In the drawings, two of the reference numerals "7" to the right of the tile as shown in Figure 1 have been deleted. Proposed corrected drawings for Figures 1 and 4 are submitted attached to this Amendment. In Figure 4, an upper end and a lower end are indicated by reference numerals 10 and 6 and the connecting means (longitudinal sides) by new reference numerals 23 and 24. This is also set forth in the Specification in the first replacement paragraph on page 4. In the second replacement paragraph on page 3, it is set forth that components 8-10 and 13 comprise support means to receive the lower edge of the next higher tile and components 11, 15, 18 and 18' are the support means along longitudinal edge 11 for an adjoining tile. Thus the support means, as such, form generally an upside down "L" as seen in Figure 1. Accordingly, it is submitted that the drawings, considered in light of amendments to the Specification, meet the requirements set forth for the drawings on page 2 of the Official Action.

Concerning reference numeral "8", page 4, line 12, inasmuch as the paragraph is being replaced, this should no longer be a problem.

The corrections to the Specification set forth on page 3 of the Official Action have been made. Thus on page 4 of the Substitute Specification, line 15, "rectangular space 22" has been

changed to --trapezoid space 22--. In addition, the paragraph in line 9 has been deleted as surplusage. Step 7 is mentioned in the replacement paragraph for the paragraph on page 3, lines 11-17.

Concerning the objections to Claim 3 relating to the steps, it is submitted that this is, in effect, corrected in new Claim 11 which corresponds to prior Claim 3, wherein the incorrect identification of a "first" step has been corrected to indicate that it should be a "second" step. It will thus be understood that reference numeral 10 indicates the first step, reference numeral 11 indicates the second step, reference numeral 13 indicates the third step, reference numeral 15 indicates the fourth step, reference numeral 12 indicates the fifth step, and reference numeral 18' indicates the sixth step. The first protrusion is indicated by reference numeral 17 and the second protrusion by reference numeral 18.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that new Claim 11 should be allowable.

Concerning Claim 4 and new Claim 12, instead of "another like tile", --an adjoining tile-- has been substituted. It is submitted that this overcomes the objection to the language "another like tile" which was previously in Claim 4. Also, insofar as cancelled Claim 4 is concerned, the attached drawings together with amendments to the Specification, provide antecedent language in the Specification whereby Claim 12 and claims dependent thereon should be allowable.

It is submitted that the language added to the Specification is clearly supported by the original Application, including the drawings, and no new matter has been added.